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232 *Equine Contagious Disease.*—In February, sudden deaths amongst the hackney carriage horses occurred, and, as a result of post-mortems, African horse sickness was suspected. By taking prompt precautionary measures, the disease was confined to Crater. Nine deaths were recorded.

Three segregation camps for cattle are being constructed, two at Sheikh Othman and one at Maala.

Fisheries

226 Fishing is, generally speaking, good, but the quantity of fish caught is greatly influenced by the movements of the different species of sardinella on which the large species feed. Shark, barracuda, horse-mackerel, sea-perch, dolphins, the smaller members of the tunny family, rock cod soles, and mullet are the principal edible fish. Sword or sail fish make their appearance at certain seasons of the year, but are not easily saleable for human consumption. Crabs and crawfish are to be had at all seasons, and oysters are available in the winter months. The fishermen are a very industrious people and employ various kinds of nets as well as hand-lines in their work. The nets used are of the stationary, circular throwing, and drag varieties, the latter being used from the shore. In addition a special net is operated from boats working in pairs during the monsoon period. Throwing nets for mullet, mackerel and a form of whitebait are also in use. The catch is at times greater than the requirements for local consumption, and the surplus is salted for export. Shark is almost invariably treated in this manner, and during some seasons large quantities are dried. Whitebait is exported.

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The fishermen are subject to certain rules which forbid trawls and limit the size of nets, and in addition they defer to the judgment of their elected Akils in matters of fishing custom.

228 Licences to dive for pearls both in the harbour and in the waters of Perim are obligatory, but no licences are required to fish.

Salt

● 258 A salt work was first constructed by the Italian firm of Messrs. Gaustalla and Company (now styled The Aden Salt Works) in the year 1885, and it carries on a profitable business in salt production at Sheikh Othman. This was followed by the salt work constructed in 1909 by the Bombay firm of Messrs. Abdullabhoy and Joomabhoy Lalljee and Company. Two more salt works have since been constructed by Messrs. Hajeebhoy Laljee and Company and the Little Aden Salt Industrial Company in May, 1923, and October, 1927, respectively, and they continue to work successfully. The total quantity of salt exported to India and other places during the last year was 230,379 tons. The monopoly of salt for local consumption is in the hands of Government, who have licensed certain pits to Arabs at Sheikh Othman.

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4:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

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The Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act passed by the Indian Legislature in 1931 and since extended to April, 1938, has benefited the Aden salt industry, which under the protection of the duty supplies about two-thirds of the total salt imports into India.

Dhow Building.

Dhows are built at Maala by a number of Hadhrami merchants settled in Aden. They turn out about seven vessels a year, the average carrying capacity of which is about 200 tons. The dhows are constructed of Indian teak from the Malabar coast and are well built and fast. They sail to India (Bombay and Malabar coast) and to the East African coast as well as to neighbouring Arabian ports, and take a large share in local trade, in spite of the competition of the coasting steamers of Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers and of Monsieur A. Besse (Halal Shipping Company).

Soap Manufacturing.

A soap manufacturing industry started by Monsieur A. Besse in December, 1932, at Maala is progressing satisfactorily. The soap is manufactured by boiling coconut oil and cold processes. Local labour of 40 men is employed. The output is about 50 cases daily, each case containing 200 cakes which are disposed of locally or exported to the Red Sea ports.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

258 There are four salt works, which are owned by private companies.
439 Export of salt to India has been discontinued as India is now producing almost all the salt it needs. Japan is still buying large quantities at competitive prices. The tonnage produced during the two years is as follows:

Year	*Tons*
1951 . .	304,302
1952 . .	376,079

FISHERIES

Fishing Areas and Methods

133 The Colony coast extends for approximately 16 sea miles in a straight line but is heavily indented with rocky bays and sandy beaches. Fish-
226 ing is almost totally coastal and shoals of small fish are caught in the shallow waters of the inner harbour. The only deep-sea fishing carried out is just inside the 100-fathom line on rocky heads in the otherwise sandy bottom at distances up to 16 miles from the coast. No inland fisheries exist because of the arid geography of the Colony.

226 Fishing methods are mostly ancient having been handed down
501 through generations of fishermen. Dugout canoes from 9 feet to 30 feet long and sewn or nailed planked surf boats (sambuks) up to 35 feet long are the principal fishing craft. The small canoes (houris) are fished by one man with handline for rock fish and trolling for migratory shoaling fish. The larger houris are used by a crew of three or four with cotton nets for shoals of a type of mackerel, and with handlines on the rocky coast. In addition, beach seines and rectangular bottom set nets are set by this type of craft. The surf boats are mostly used during the summer months with a crew of eleven using encircling gill nets, and during the months of March, April and May for deep-sea hand lining.

Principal methods used are hand lines, trolling lines, fine cotton gill nets, a form of encircling gill triangular net in cotton or heavy Indian twine, a rectangular bottom set net with leader, lift nets and various tangle and beach seine nets.

Organisation

226 The fishing industry is split into net and line fishermen. The latter
426 are mostly self-supporting and generally take their own fish to market. The net fishermen are almost all completely indebted to substantial salt fish exporters who advance money to the captain (*nakhooda*) of